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Time has passed. Rick and the other survivors have rebuilt Alexandria into a protected, self-sustaining community. Negan is still their captive...

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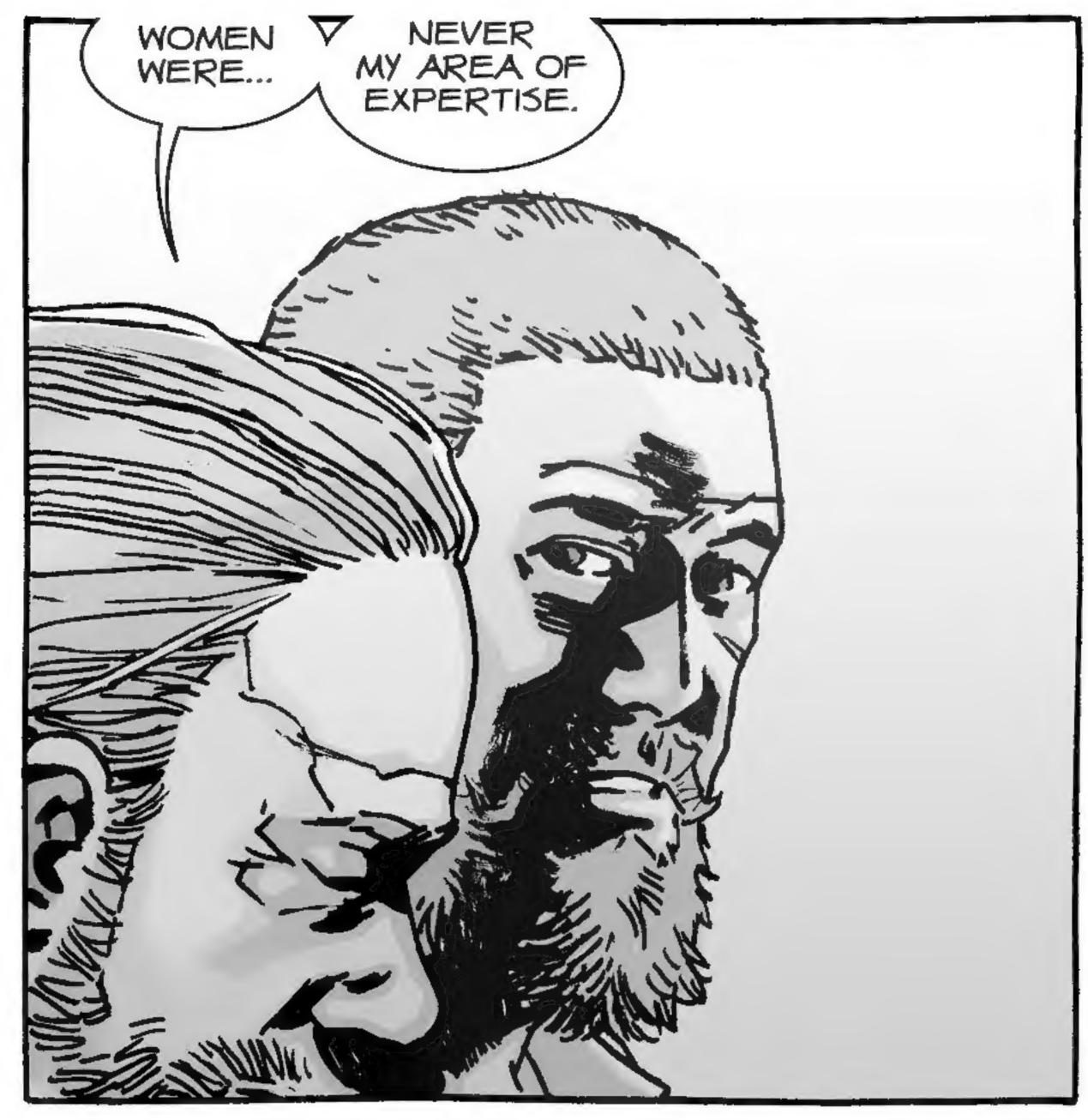


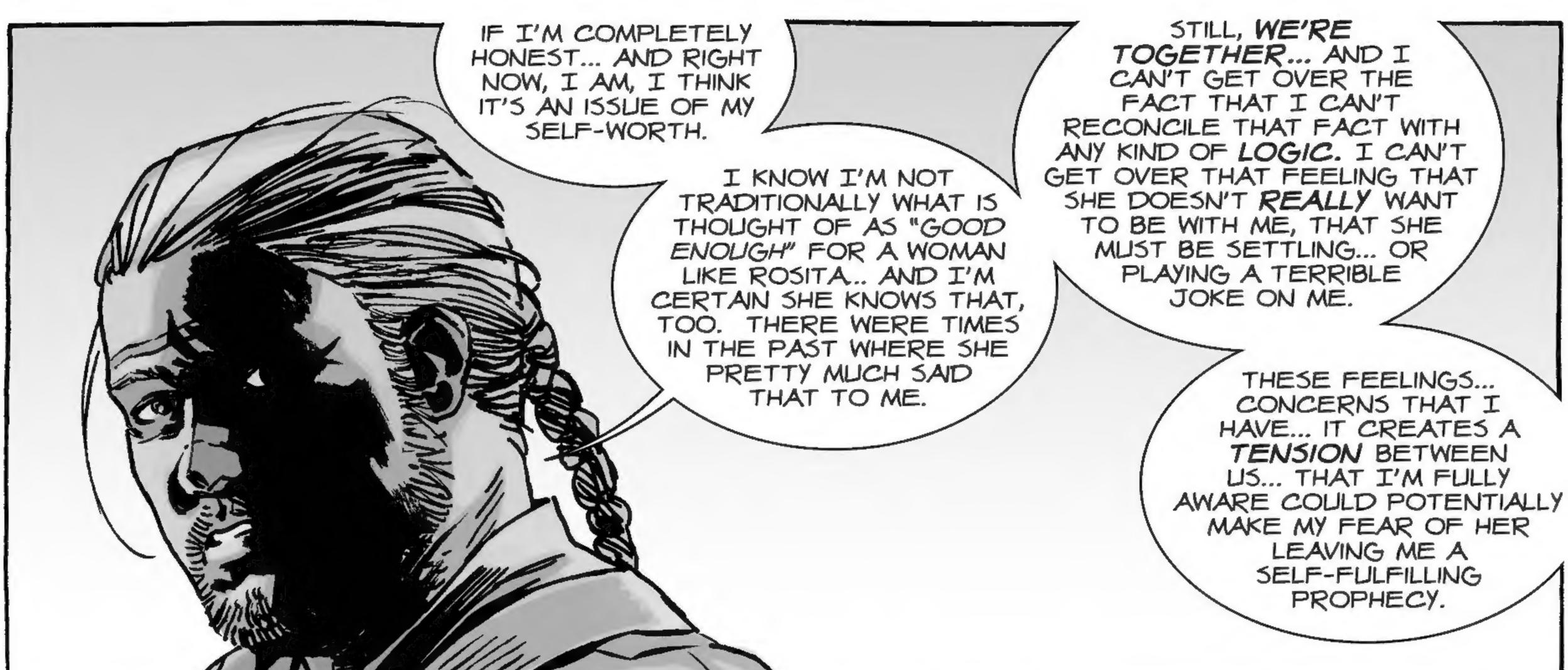










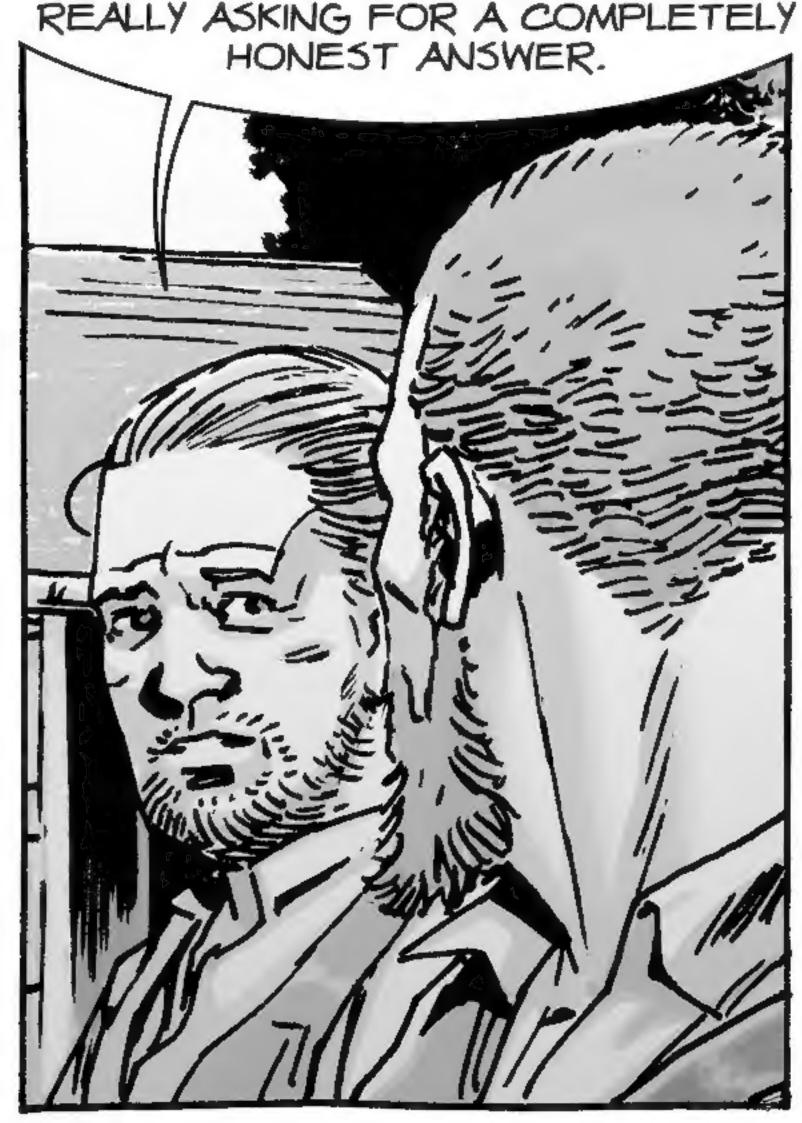


I'M STARTING TO REALIZE THIS IS

ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHERE

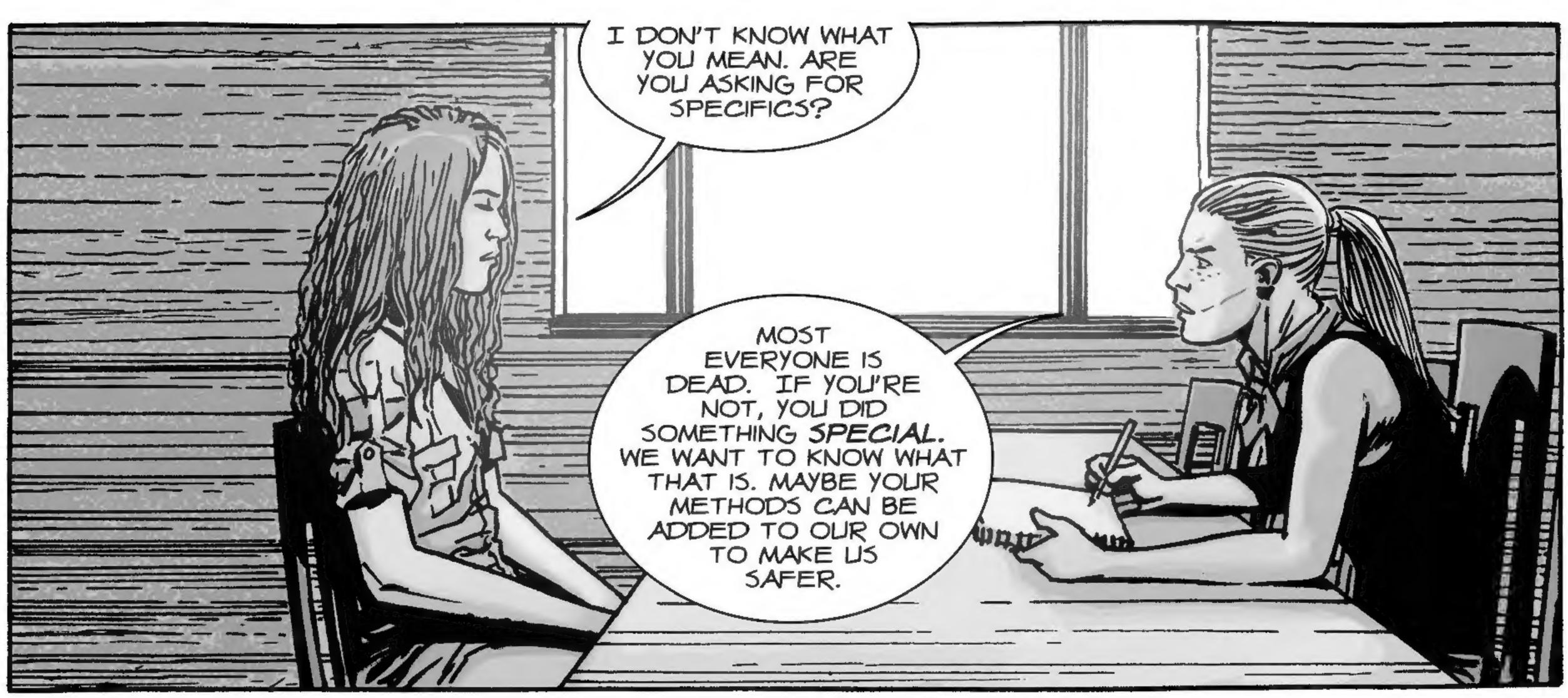
OR "OKAY" FROM ME AND WEREN'T











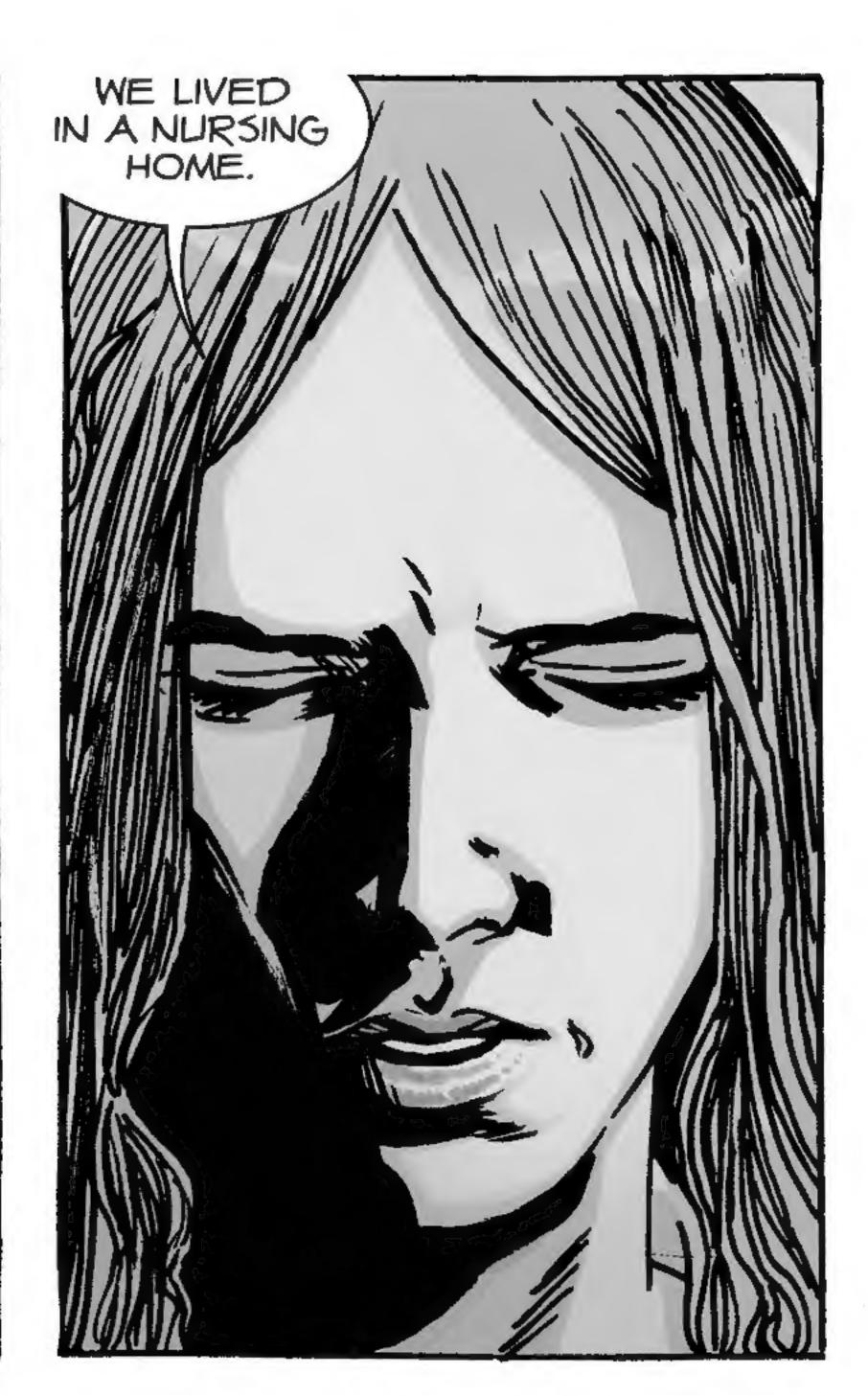












I'M FROM RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, BUT WE DIDN'T STAY THERE LONG ... IT WASN'T SAFE. WE EVENTUALLY MADE IT TO THIS PLACE ... SLADE COUNTY RETIREMENT HOME ... IT WAS CLOSER TO D.C.

> WE WERE TRYING TO GET TO THE CAPITAL. THE LAST BROADCASTS WE'D HEARD WERE URGING PEOPLE TO GET TO BIG CITIES ... SAYING THEY COULD STILL PROTECT THOSE. FIGURED D.C. HAD A BETTER CHANCE THAN RICHMOND.

WALLS, NOT LIKE YOU HAVE ... BUT NICE FENCES. THERE WAS ALREADY A VAST GARDEN... A GREENHOUSE WHERE WE COULD GROW FOOD YEAR ROUND ... IT WAS AMAZING.

MORE OR LESS A PRISON

FOR THESE PEOPLE. HAD



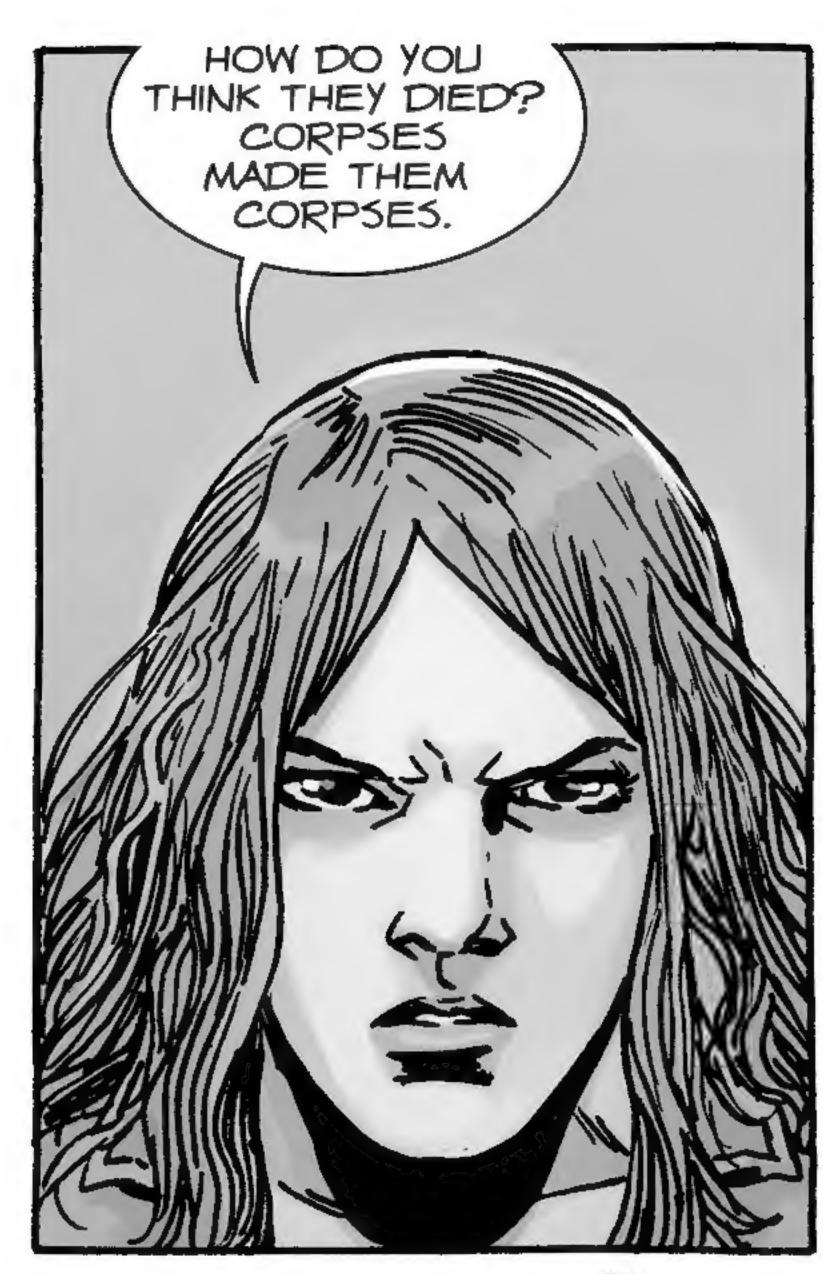




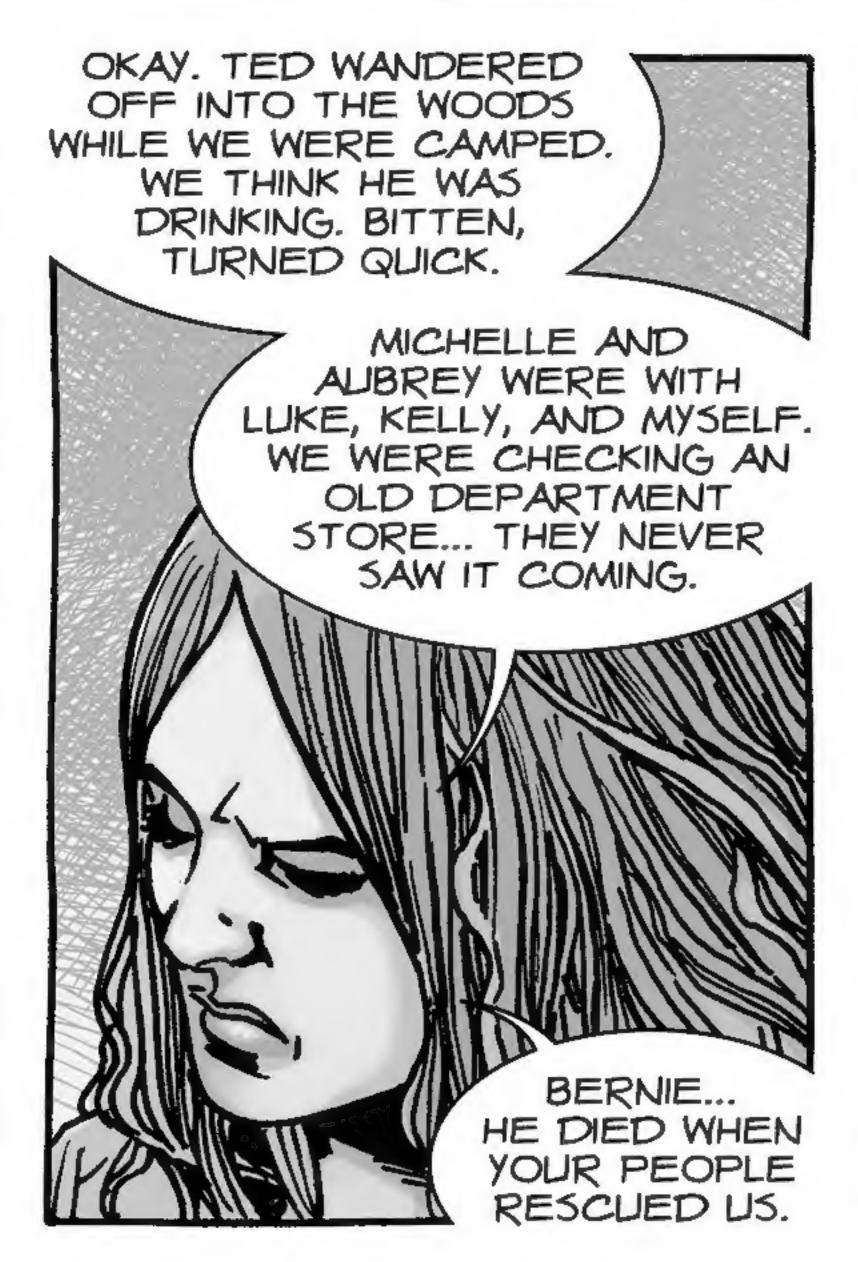


































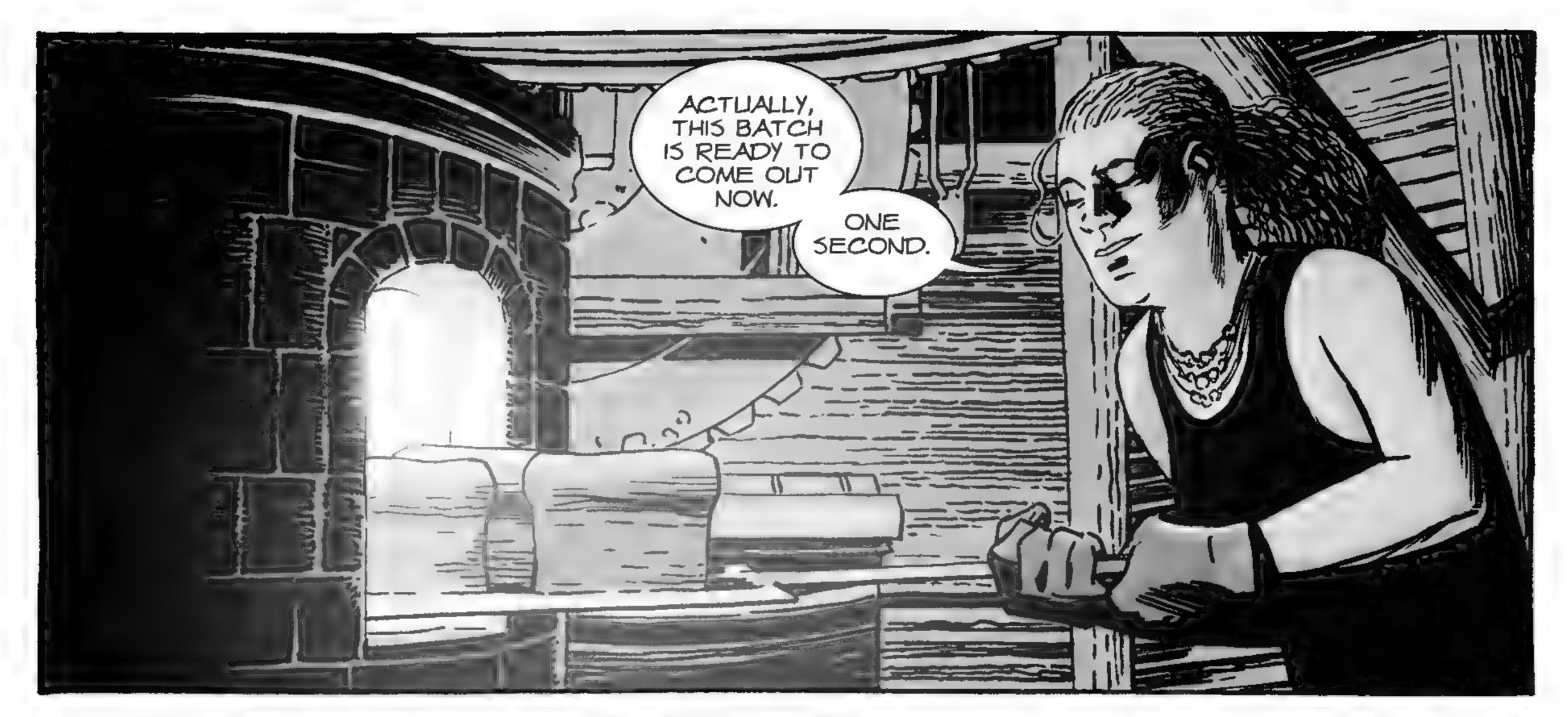




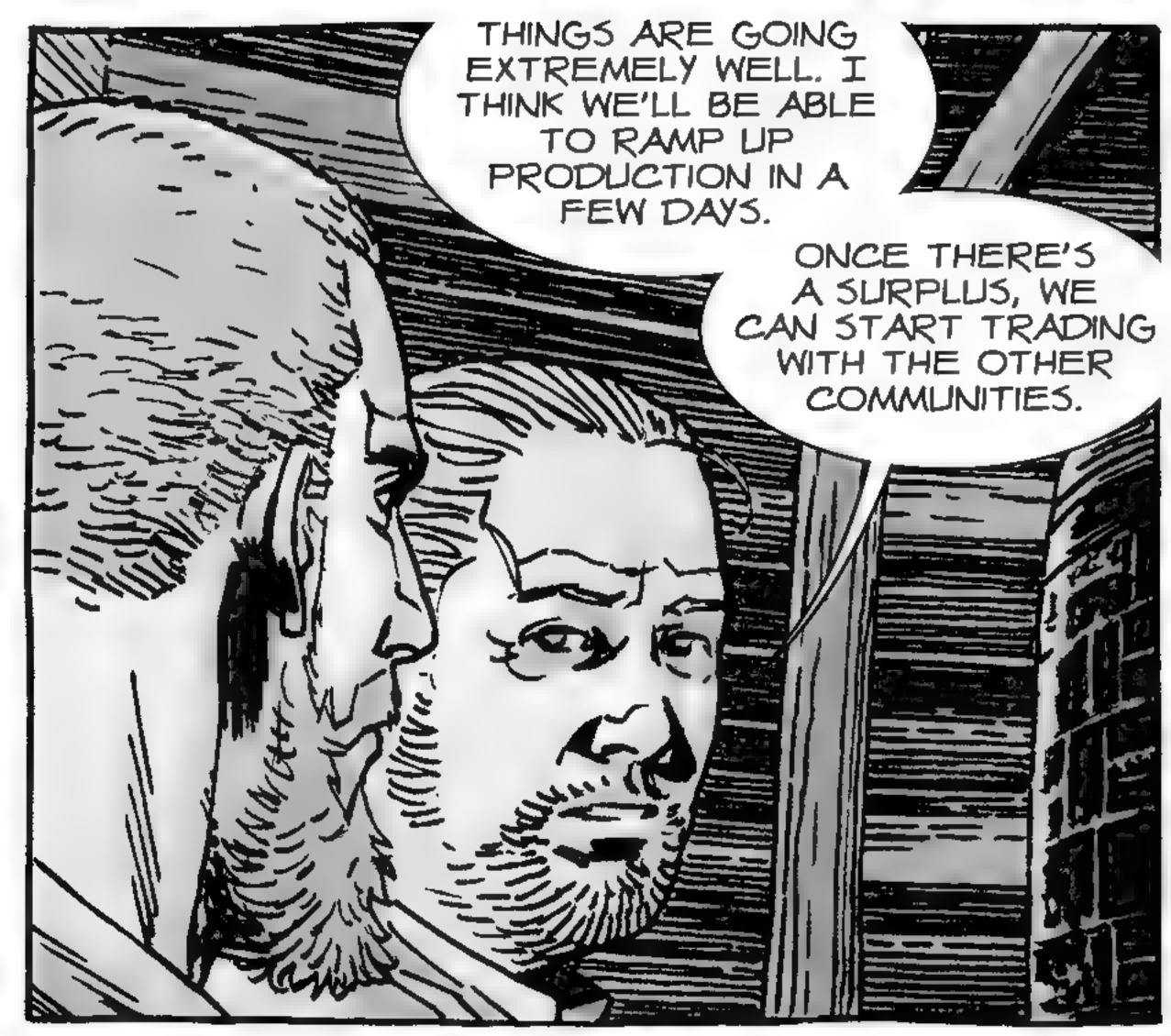














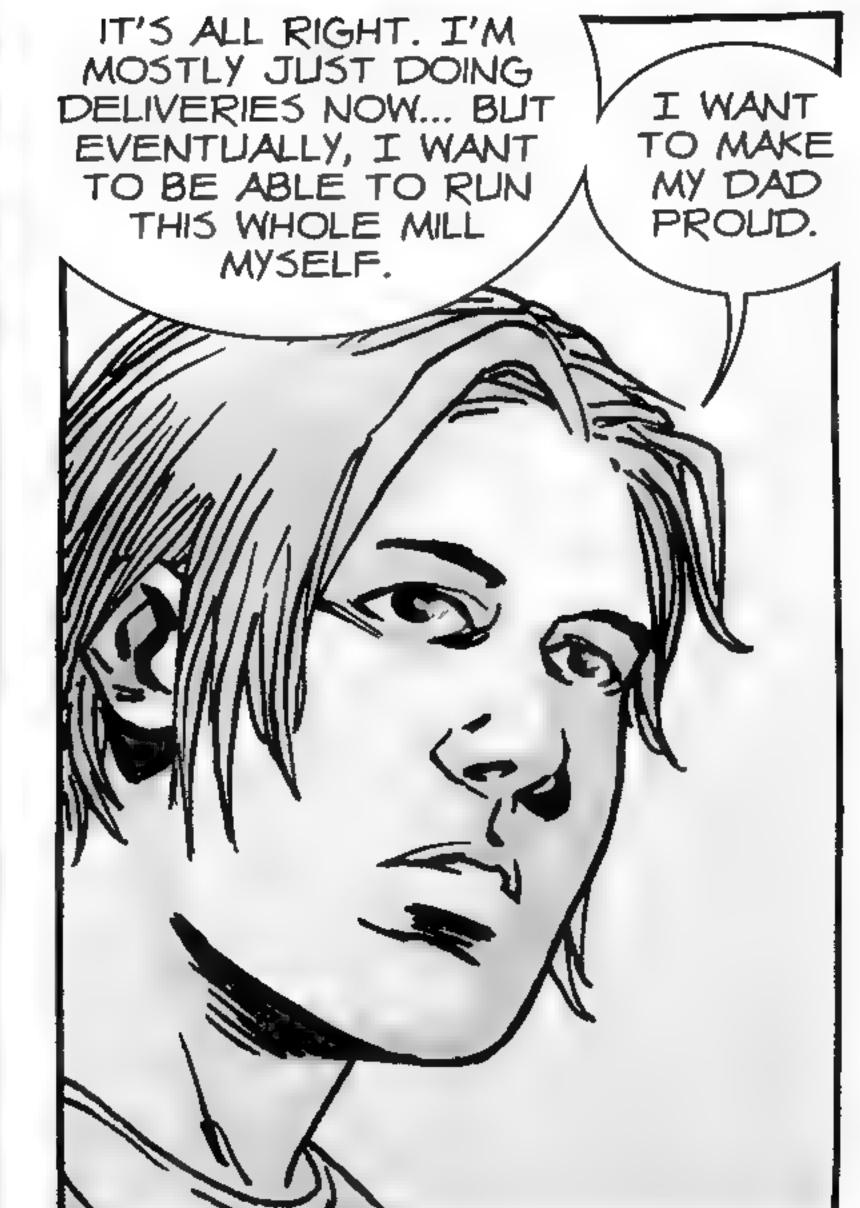




































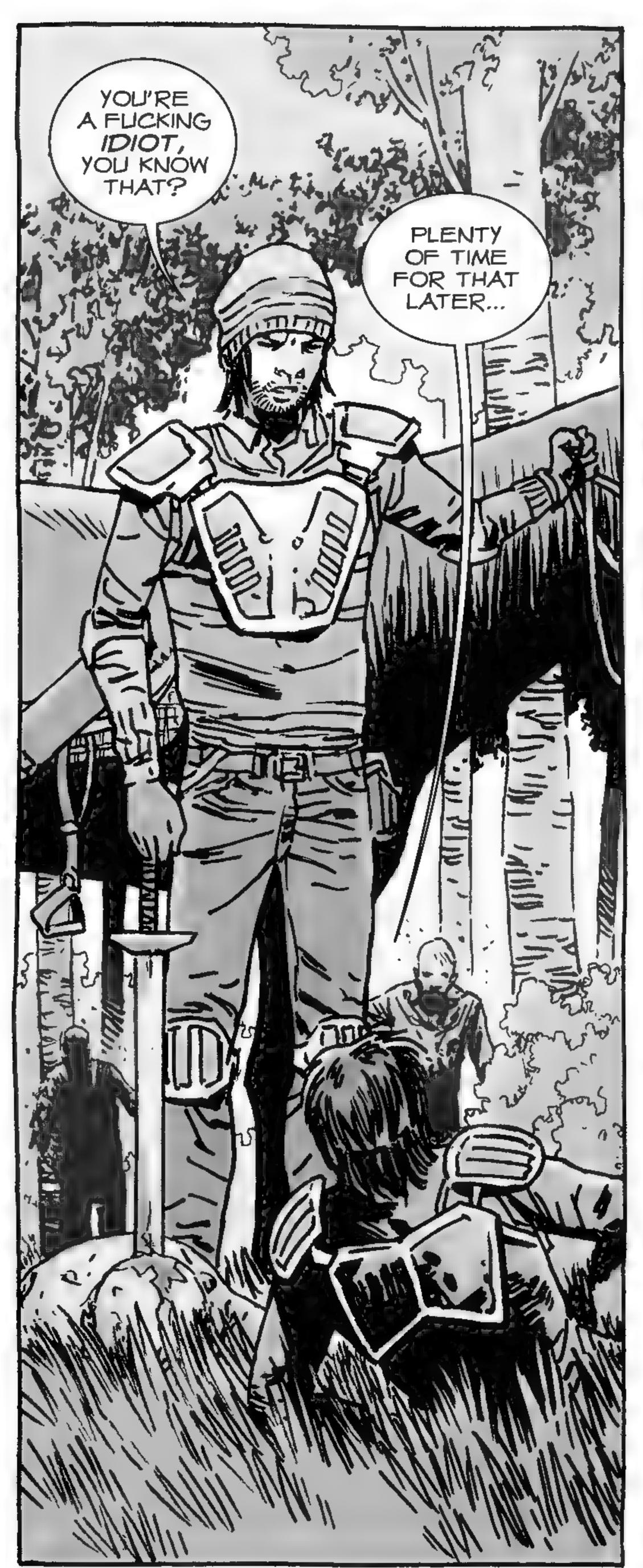
















































SEEING ALL YOUR FRIENDS TAKE ON WORK. I GUESS I JUST WANTED TO HOLD ONTO MY LITTLE BOY FOR JUST A LITTLE LONGER. I WAS WRONG TO DO THAT, I'M SORRY.

> THAT'S WHY TOMORROW... YOU AND I ARE GOING TO THE HILLTOP AND YOU'RE GOING TO--

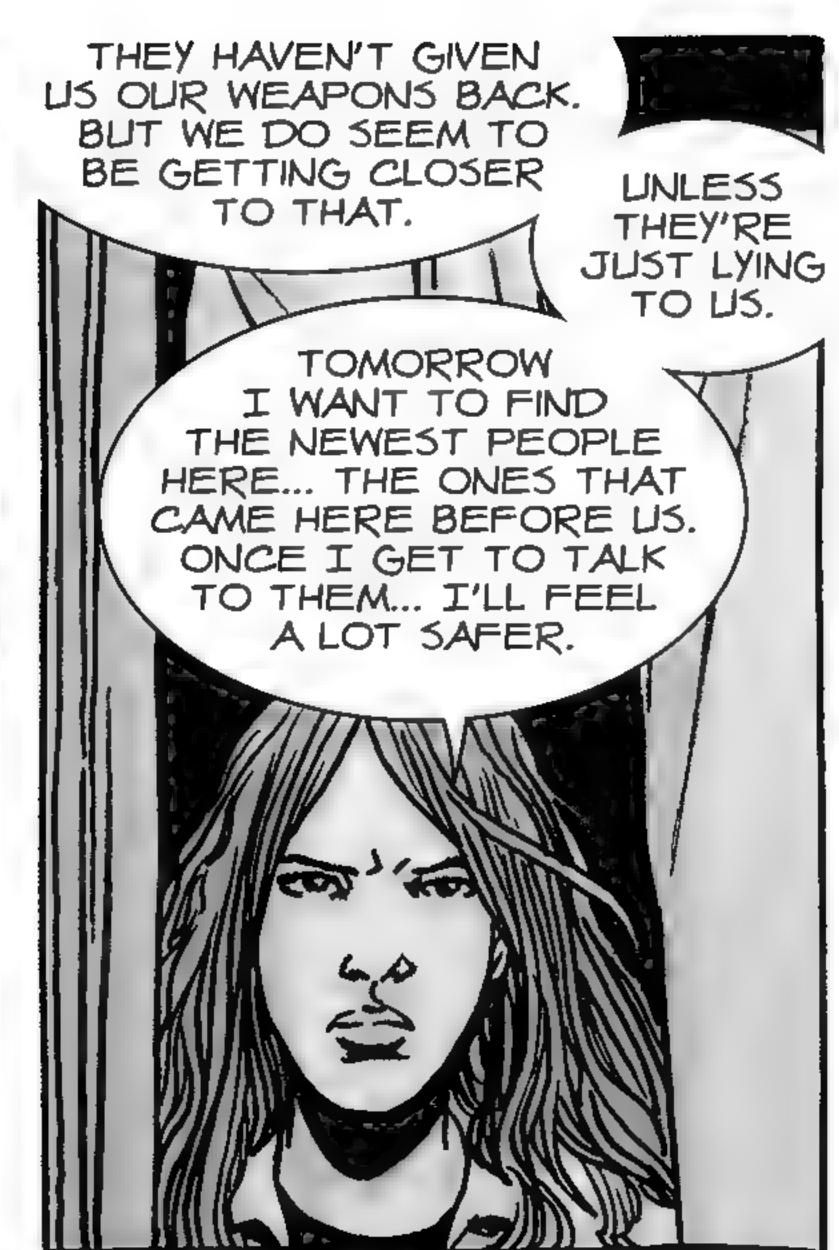








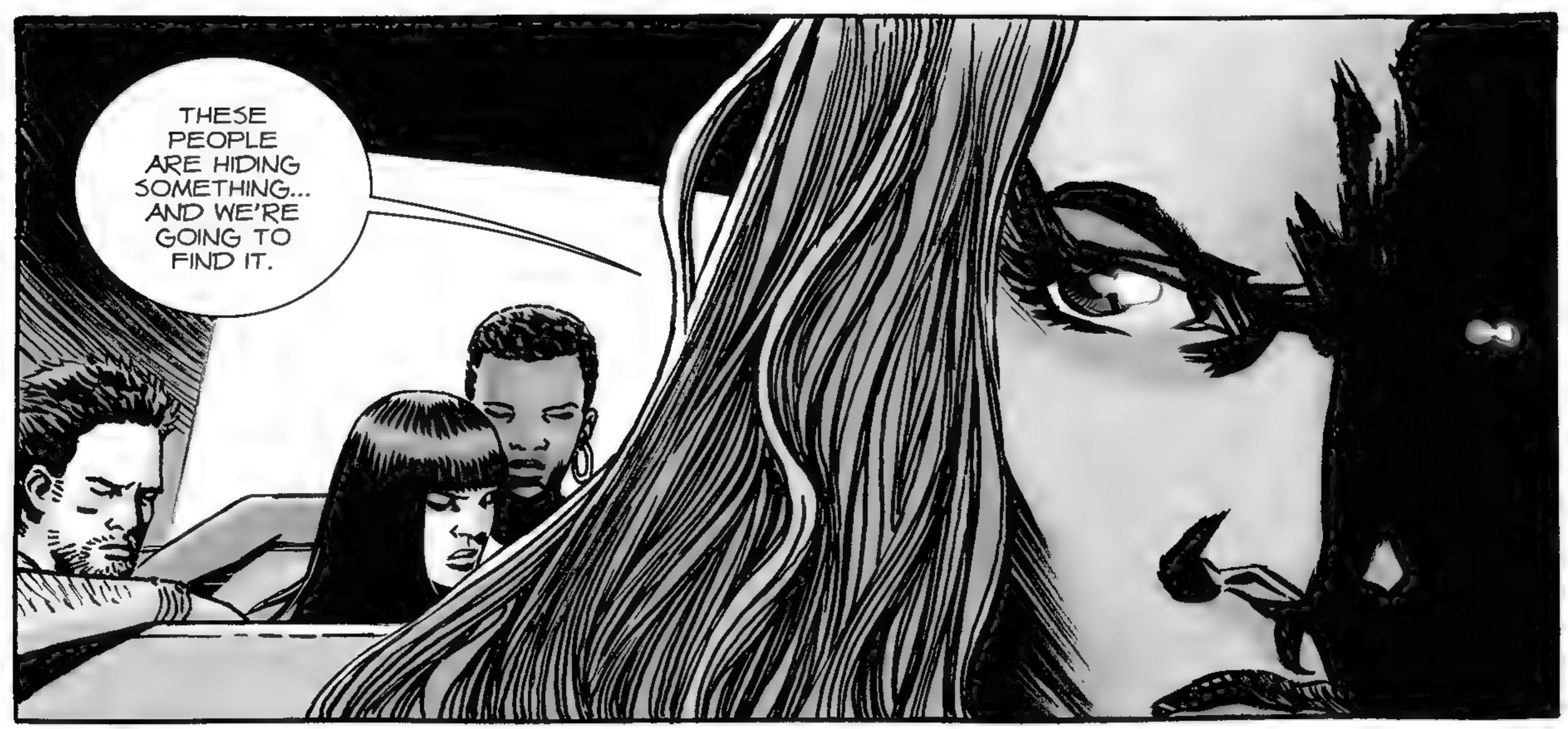














WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Aw, man... That look on Rick's face after Carl walks away. Carl's just growing up too fast.

That's what happens when you do a time jump of an undetermined amount of time no matter what an editor says in a letters column, which the writer should have caught, but didn't... and now regrets.

But y'know... we've got to wait until next issue to talk about the time jump! Let's dive into mail about the conclusion of ALL OUT WAR! Which I'm sure is all positive!

Kirkman and Crew,

Issue #126

Problem #1 - Maggie Says..." I Don't Know, I-- I Think Glenn Would Like That." Really? Let's scrape him up and ask him?

Problem #2 - Rick Saying... "You're Going To Rot in Jail Until You Die An Old Man, Negan. You're Fucked." Rick is now Judge, Jury and Executioner! Not Barney Fife with Otis sleeping one off in the cell!!!!

This is a post-zombie apocalypse world, the world as we knew is gone.

To quote METALLICA's epic... AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

"Nothing can save you Justice is lost Justice is raped Justice is gone

Pulling your strings Justice is done

Seeking no truth
Winning is all
Find it so grim
So true, so real"

Ralph Savannah, GA

I'm tempted to respond to each and every letter this month with Metallica lyrics... I found a cassette of Master of Puppets on the street and it's been love ever since... but man, their lyrics sound like high school poetry.

I can't tell if they liked the issue or if they're complaining... but points for the Metallica lyrics.

What's with the two guys named Carson (Dr. Carson and the Carson that helps Eugene escape)? They play similar good guy roles and are kind of hard to keep apart. Are they separated family, a pseudo civil war brother versus brother thing? Or is it the only natural name for a peripheral dogooder?

Nick

We've touched upon it in AOW, but yes, they're brothers.

Totally brothers.

Hey Guys,

I recently brought my childhood comic collection to a local comic shop to see if anything my 10 year old self bought was worth something. I hadn't been in a comic store for about 20 years, so while I was waiting I started looking around. Jumping off the shelf were your covers for issues 3-5, so I picked up a book and started leafing through it. As I scanned the artwork and chuckled at a few of the lines, that old rush I hadn't felt in a lifetime started creeping into my chest. I wanted to finish that book and I couldn't wait to find out what happened next. Just thought you guys should know you singlehandedly got me back into comics, 20 years after I had "outgrown" them.

Can't wait to see what's around the next bend, Jordan Vardon

Any time's a good time to get back into comics, but you picked a great time, when there's greater diversity in the stories being told in the mainstream, as well a lot of talented folk telling them... at least at Image anyways.

Welcome back! And seriously... try other Image Comics... and don't stray too far from that. It's a jungle out there.

Let me start by saying that I've loved The Walking Dead for a long time. It got me into comics. But All out War has been... disappointing.

As issue 125 was coming to a close, I was thinking (no, hoping) that Negan was being sarcastic when he agreed with Rick. I thought, "Negan is just teasing his enemy, and on the last page of this issue he's gonna bash Rick's head open with Lucille." After all that time, it'd take more to stop Negan than to just say "hey stop being a jerk and let's work together." Surely that thought (working together) has crossed Negan's mind at some point, and surely he's dismissed it. The dude loves power, it's what he's about. He doesn't care about fixing the world.

To quote Metallica's "Battery":

"Crushing all deceivers, mashing non-believers Never ending potency Hungry violence seeker, feeding off the weaker Breeding on insanity"

That might as well be Negan's theme song.

So I was pretty disappointed when the complete opposite happened at the end of 125. Negan was stupider than I thought, and Rick survives yet another near-death scenario. Rick's lived through too much, and frankly I'm getting sick of the guy. He's gonna die eventually, right?

Of course!

Then we have #126. The most anti-climatic ending imaginable. Rick decides to keep Negan alive and be civil about it. Okay, but if Rick wants to rebuild civilization, he needs to be logical about it; people and resources are limited. Keeping Negan alive means feeding him, and if he's sitting in prison for the rest of his life not doing anything productive, that's a huge waste of food. They'll also need someone to guard his prison, which is a waste of manpower. Plus it's sure to cause a lot of counterproductive drama. Keeping Negan alive just doesn't make any sense logistically.

127 looks like it'll bring something different to the table, so I'm hoping this series gets back on track. If not, at least there's always Invincible. That series only keeps getting better by the way, keep up the awesome work there!

Mike

You guys, I could talk about the awesomeness of Invincible all fucking day.

I know the ending wasn't what people expected and that's kind of the point. Every "event" with The Walking Dead can't be an explosive story where major characters die. When you're trying to do a series that runs as long as it appears this series is going to go... you have to change things up. TWD was always building to an extended quiet period, that's what "All Out War" was about and that's why we sort of skipped over that part jumping to these issues.

Rick learned, Rick was right... everything you've SEEN him live through, made him a better person and a better leader. To see him kill Negan and for things to continue on as they had before... I feel, would have been a mistake.

And for Rick to die... well... you'll just have to wait a while longer for that.

Hey guys,

In giving my thoughts of 126, I first want to say that I was so sure Rick was going to die due to walker disease in 125, Carl was going to kill Negan in 126, and 127 was going to be a time skip that eventually leads to Carl becoming the villain somewhere down the line. Additionally, I thought Rick's probable death was so perfectly timed that I was so sure anything but his death would ruin the arc.

Now that I have read 126 and eagerly await 127, I think deciding to let Negan and Rick both live was an incredibly mature decision. That speech that Rick gives to the people and later to Carl felt a lot like you guys were talking to your characters (especially to Carl). From that point of view, the final pages read like this:

"Listen guys, we know that this can end with Rick dying from infection, Negan from blunt force trauma, and Carl as a renegade down the line. We're also well aware that you want to see Negan die in whatever form of justice this story has left. Unfortunately, we can't do that. If Negan or even Rick dies, it's clear nothing will change. It's still going to be organized in 1-3 year arcs where someone challenges the gang, the challengers lose, a main character or two dies along the way, and we repeat. We have to break the cycle and give the comic something other than structured depression, because frankly, it deserves better than the path we're going down right now."

Pretty much... but I'll argue the path we went down was necessary to facilitate the transition to these new stories. There's always been a plan at work here.

Reading into it like that, giving it a happy-ish, civil ending seems to prove necessary. Because of this issue, I have no idea what the comic is going to be when it gets its funky reboot-looking thing next month. Whether intentional or not, I also like how this issue subverts expectations by being the complete opposite of 100. Instead of being over the top and booming, it was muted and contemplative (barring an exciting Rick v. Negan fight). And like 100, it also introduced the new leader of the Saviors for the first time!

And as for the upcoming group the comic is going to follow, the tagline of 129, "Even now, they still find new ways to dispose of the dead," tells me that this new group of characters exists some amount of time removed from the original group. With the hopeful way 126 ended, it almost seems like this issue is an investment into this time skip future, where maybe we WILL see Negan die as an old man and maybe we WILL see Rick turn into the patriarch he is poised to be.

In conclusion I just wrote this to say that I thought the issue was great. It sets us up for a great time skip, the best character (Negan) didn't have to die, and it acts as a great first step to break the cycle this series has been on for some time.

Best,

Alexander C.

Rick is definitely trying to break that cycle... but he's

basically slowly torturing Negan to death, right? At least he's not embracing the fairy tale of imprisonment as a way to rehabilitate criminal behavior... they're really not even trying to do that... but he's not letting Negan off easy by any measure.

Mr. Kirkman,

First of all, I am a huge fan of the TV show and the comic. The TV show actually inspired me to start reading the comic. From that point, I went back and read all the collected editions so that I could catch up. As a mid-40's African-American male I especially appreciate the way you present your black characters and avoid the unfortunate clichés that plague many other TV shows and books. Unfortunately, in media that is not considered "black" (in essence works that are created by white writers with predominantly white characters) black characters either do not play a major part, are not fully formed, and sometimes only serve to uplift the white characters by being a wise sage (as much as I like his work see certain Stephen King novels.) You consistently avoid those clichés. In a recent TV episode you had Bob, Michonne, and Tyreese accompany Daryl on a medicine run. You broke the unspoken rule that you can't have more than one black character appear in scenes and contribute meaningfully. In the comic, you show Michonne having realistic relationships with Tyreese, Morgan, and Ezekiel. You show black characters as heroic, flawed and resilient. This is not to say that whites and blacks don't need to associate. This is a given in your work. It's just that you show a diverse group of people associating in a realistic, diverse way. Another person who is known for doing this is Shondra Rimes (Scandal, Grey's Anatomy) who is an African-American female. I salute you for this sir and look forward to many more years of TWD.

Marcus G. Chelsea, Alabama

Very cool, Marcus. Thanks for writing in. Comics have been a very white-centric medium for a long time and anything I can do to work against that I'm happy to do. Expect plenty more minorities to be popping up in this series... because I hate white people.

Oh, Kirkman,

Let's get right into this you little minx, you. Rick and Negan both live, well played. The ending of this arc has been rolling around in my head since October, AND THIS IS WHERE IT HAS TAKEN US?! You really got me here. This was certainly unexpected to me. I was confident one or the other was going to loose their head here, and you've struck us all with the unthinkable. Is this the ending you had in mind from the beginning of AOW, or has this ending grown from the fan's positive response to Negan and his filthy yet hilarious banter? Where is this going to lead us in the future? Is Negan going to escape and be a reoccurring threat, like a Scooby-Doo villain? "I'll get you next time, you meddling survivors. You and your stupid cyclops!"

It was always the plan that both Negan and Rick would survive... there's a lot more story to be told with both of them. And I promise none of it is in the Scooby-Doo variety.

I like Negan. I have been in his corner for a long time, probably since he killed Spencer. But as Negan is on the losing end of this war, I think I'm going to have to side with Carl on the "should he live" subject. I think Rick is making a huge mistake by letting him live and I think a lot of people who have followed him are going to lose respect for him when this comes back to bite him in the ass.

I agree. Rick's got this pathological need to be proven right, but he's in a no-win situation. If he kills Negan, he reinforces the idea that violence solves problems, and if he doesn't, you're keeping a murderer alive in a basement... which never ends well.

We'll see! You never know.

And now for my only real complaint regarding the ULTIMATE CHAPTER of AOW: Maggie, man. You had to know this was coming. She just accepts that Negan is going to be living as a prisoner with them from now on? She decides that Glenn would have liked that they made him live? Growing old next to where she and their children rest their heads every night! C'mon, man. I know these characters are your brain children but gimme a break. IS ANYBODY OTHER THAN CARL GOING TO OBJECT TO THIS LUNACY?

All the same we've accomplished something here. We made it

to the end of AOW. I think I'm going to go get a drink, my mind is exhausted. Cheers, guys. I've been addicted to this series for a long time. Thank you for making it so enjoyable.

Jake Hood Detroit, MI

Thank you for sticking with it. We appreciate the support.

Dear Sean & that other guy,

"Jesus is gay"...homosexuality is right or wrong...fuck all that shit...Kirkman knocking Sean for watching pro wrestling? You're breaking my heart here, Robert. And, no, your half-assed, tongue-in-cheek apology at the end of your pronouncement doesn't cut it here, pal. I'm a 40-year-old businessman who is often knocked for his love of both comics & pro wrestling, and this was the last place I'd expect a knock on the greatest form of sports-entertainment known to man!

Robert's first comic was a wrestling one! Now he's too big for it?! For shame, man.

That comic was unpublished! Doesn't count! Fuck wrestling!

I think the hardest hit with this is the fact that the fate of my ultimate fantasy WD storyline has just been sealed: Rick & the group stumbling upon the undead bad-ass & prowrestling legend The Undertaker. Now that dude could kick some major zombie ass! And it didn't help my temper with the fact that you're kicking me when I'm down: on the heels of reading the last bi-weekly issue & coming to terms with a longer wait between issues.

On a lighter note, All Out War was fucking epic! I still love you, Kirkman...I just love Sean more!

Ross Blair Richmond Hill, GA

Everyone loves Sean more. He's the new Sina. Whatever.

I'm the fucking people's champ, is what I am.

I'm like the Rick Flair of comics. Nobody liked him right? He was a villain, wasn't he?

Everyone loves Ric Flair now! Stop playing dumb. Now I gotta find a letter that'll give you a good ol' kick in the nuts.

Mr Kirkman and crew,

I am just finishing Issue #126 and think i can talk for a majority of fans that feel we have really been played a fool! All out war ended in such a bad way! Seriously, Negan is alive? Whiskey Tango Foxtrot!! This guy was responsible for numerous deaths and the destruction of the ASZ! Why on earth would Rick spare him after all this! I understand people would love for Negan to be around for a while, but it could have been done another way. Negan has done much worse than the Governor ever has and yet Rick allows him to live! This is BS!!!! He promised Carl he would Kill him, Maggie should honestly walk up to him and blow his brains out all over the place!

What happened to this Comic, have you been getting soft. Did you get complaints about the gore from killing Glenn?

What?! Soft?! Damn... that hurts. And complaints only make me want to double down, so no worries there.

This is a survival horror comic and in wars many people die. it just seems a lot of C-D list characters died! I hope things shaken this book to make people more excited, because All out war ended with a real fizzle!

Disappointed Chris

Bah! It's a survival horror comic that's been around so long that the characters have learned to survive. You gotta shake things up, man! Trust me.

Dear Kirkman and the wonderful others,

Was I the only one looking forward to a world without Rick?

Not one letter has stressed this! When you all first set the story up like Rick was on the way out, I like the army of other TWD traditionalists was shocked, angry and scared thinking you were making a huge mistake. But seeing how well the group rallied and worked together seamlessly, for example, when Rick was struck with the bolt, I saw a glimpse of the new world that you were going to masterfully create...a trans-egalitarian society where leadership and duty roles shift and move when stresses were applied...leaving behind a scarred world of groups controlled by the whim of a single madman (tell me which leader aint crazy!).

I must say I was a bit dissapointed when this did not happen, but I am excited to see where this is going now....civilization's original intention was to fight off death..Gilgamesh, the hero of the walled city of Uruk, leaves the city to find immortality. When he fails at this task the best consolation is to return to and defend his city, mankind's best defense against death.... very archetypal and deep waters you have us in Kirk!

Jesse C. Nowak San Marcos, Texas

People should be very careful not to fall in love with their own speculation and then be disappointed when the thing you enjoy doesn't go that way. I hear the complaints, and I get them... but to keep this book fresh after 127 issues... things need to change and evolve just as much as these characters do. I hope you're digging where we went with the series after All Out War.

Hey Kirk and Mack,

Alright so I just finished Chapter 12 of this amazing All Out War arc and I just want to start by praising you about the arc as a whole. I think All Out War was one of the better parts of this series and that's saying something.

I read Letter Hacks and somebody mentioned Father Gabriel and I'm kinda wondering where on Earth did that guy disappeared to. I think I remember somebody campaigning for him a dozen issues back but I see that didn't work out too well considering the guy is yet to make an impact on the comic since the Hunters. Not complaining, just saying.

He's still around! He'll have his day!

Back to All Out War. I was really upset for a moment about how it ended. I was kinda angry that Negan didn't die but I reread the last page and I actually realized that this is a way cooler way to end it. I'm kind of excited to see what happens to Negan throughout the rest of TWD. I'm curious to see how you have him react to rebuilding the communities.

I'm also excited to see what happens next issue (DOUBLE SIZED, YES!) It'll be cool to see Dwight leading The Saviors.

Finally though I gotta ask about The Walking Dead Escape. I looked at the ad and it looked pretty sweet and I decided I really wanted to go to it, but when I looked at the locations I was disappointed. I live in NY and I was expecting to see one in the city or around it but there wasn't. The closest one was in Atlanta an as much as I want to I probably can't fly out to go to it... My question is will you guys be hosting more of this event in the North East?

Thanks for reading guys. Keep up the good work.

Tommy Daviau Syracuse, NY

Man, it's going to be too late for this, but we have an event in good of Hartford, CT on June 7th... with additional dates in Minneapolis, San Diego and throughout Florida later this year.

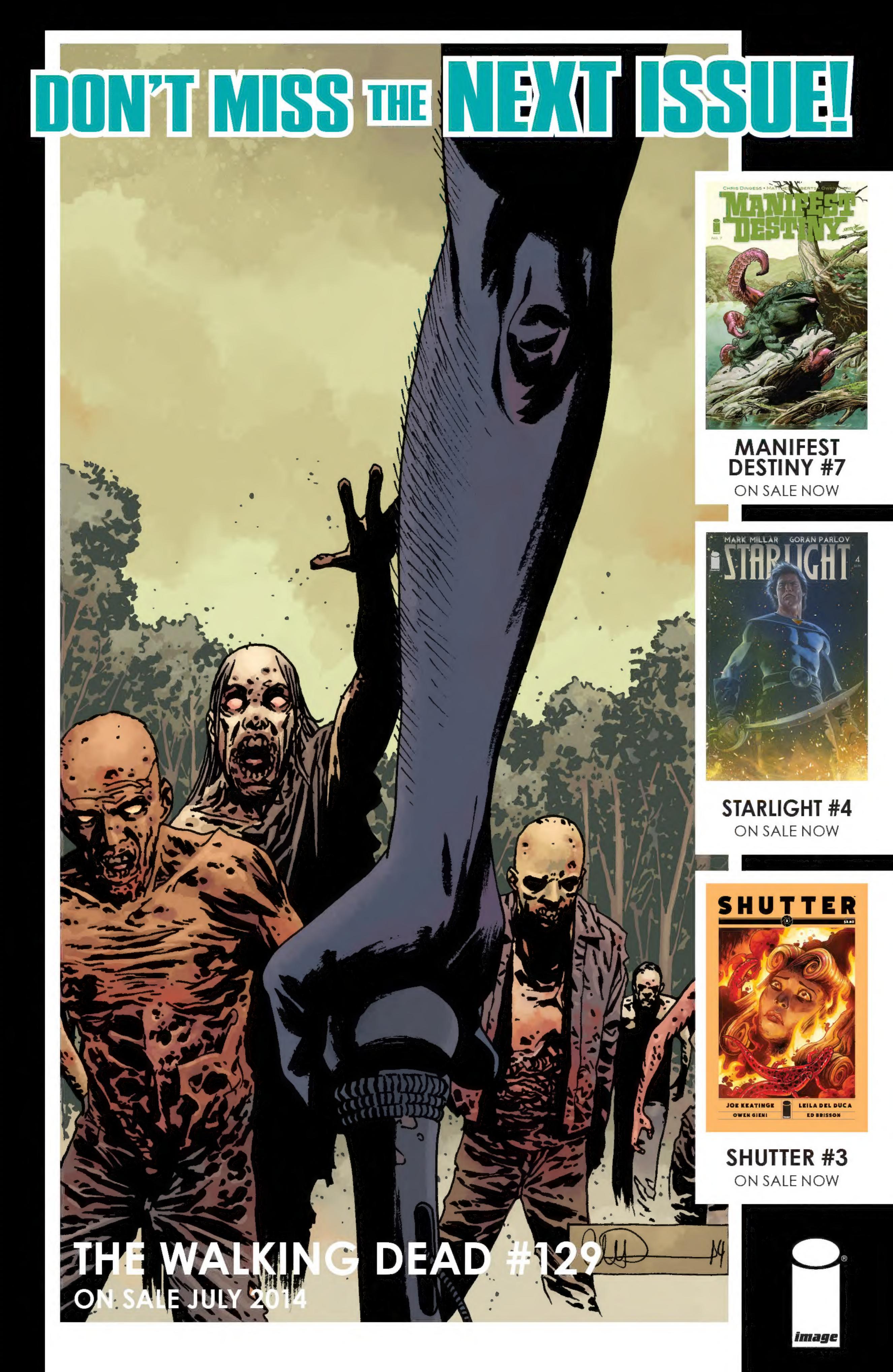
And the tour will be expanding from there... so keep an eye on thewalkingdeadescape.com for updates on new locations.

In four weeks... Rick and Carl go on a road trip...

-Sean Mackiewicz

It's going to be awesome! See you then!

-Robert Kirkman







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